

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5392

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 7525

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN ON THE AFM-PARTIES PACT

REF: (A) LISBON 7488 (DTG 171543Z DEC 75), (B) LISBON 7417
(DTG 131421Z DEC 75)

SUMMARY: NEGOTIATIONS ON AFM-PARTIES PACT BEGAN DEC 17.

ALL MAJOR PARTICIPANTS ARE AGREED THAT PACT SHOULD BE MODIFIED
TO REDUCE MILITARY ROLE IN POLITICS. DISAGREEMENTS WILL ARISE
OVER HOW RAPIDLY AND HOW COMPLETELY PACT SHOULD MOVE IN THAT
DIRECTION. END SUMMARY.

1. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) DEC 15 DESIGNATED FIVE-MEMBER
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COMMISSION TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS AND APPROVED NEGOTIATING

INSTRUCTIONS. COMMISSION AND THE FIVE LARGEST POLITICAL PARTIES BEGAN JOINT MEETINGS TO RENEGOTIATE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM)-PARTIES PACT DEC 17 (REF A). PARTIES WERE GIVEN UNTIL DEC 30 TO PRESENT THEIR PROPOSALS. MELO ANTUNES REPORTEDLY DRAFTED REVISED VERSION OF THE PACT WHICH WILL FORM BASIS OF RC NEGOTIATING POSITION (REF B). WE UNDERSTAND THAT ANTUNES DRAFT INCLUDES:

- REDUCED PERIOD FOR NEW AFM-PARTY PACT, TIMING TO BE NEGOTIATED.
- SHARPLY LIMITED AUTHORITY FOR RC.
- ELIMINATION OF AFM ASSEMBLIES.
- GRADUAL ABSORPTION OF AFM INTO ARMED FORCES AS A WHOLE.

2. PPD POSITION: RELIABLE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY SOURCE TOLD POLCOUNS DEC 17 THAT PPD'S POSITION ON AFM-PARTY PACT IS:

- SEMIPRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM WITH FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:
 - 1) DIRECT ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.
 - 2) SIMULTANEOUS ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
 - 3) PRESIDENT TO CHOOSE PRIME MINISTER.
 - 4) CIVILIAN ELIGIBLE TO RUN AS PRESIDENT (PPD WILLING TO YIELD ON THIS POINT.)
- COUNCIL OF STATE TO BE FORMED WHICH WILL HAVE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS:
 - 1) REPLACES RC.
 - 2) ADVISORY OR CONSULTATIVE ROLE.
 - 3) CAN BE PREDOMINANTLY MILITARY.
- LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:
 - 1) ELECTED FOR FOUR-YEAR TERM.
 - 2) PRESIDENT WILL DISSOLVE GOVERNMENT AFTER TWO VOTES IN WHICH THREE-FOURTHS OF ASSEMBY VOTES AGAINST GOVERNMENT.

3. SOCIALIST POSITION: THE SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) POSITION IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE PPD. THE PS STRONGLY SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE ROLE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND TO ESTABLISH THE DIRECT POPULAR ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT. SOARES CONFIDANT RECENTLY TOLD DCM THAT PARTY FAVORED A STRONG PRE-SIDENTIAL SYSTEM AS THE BEST METHOD OF PROVIDING THE COUNTRY WITH THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP NEEDED AT THIS TIME. PS LEADERS HAVE ALSO ADVOCATED A COUNCIL OF STATE WITH REDUCED POWERS TO REPLACE THE CURRENT REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CENTER PARTY (CDS) WILL BACK PS AND PPD POSITIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND ADVOCATE CONFINING ROLE OF MILITARY TO THAT OF GUARRANTEERING DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

4. PCP POSITION: THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) HOLDS THAT AFM CONTINUES TO BE "INDISPENSABLE" TO THE DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION. PCP HOWEVER, HAS ACCEPTED INEVITABILITY OF CHANGES FROM PRE-NOV 25 AFM SO LONG AS AFM "PREVENTS RIGHT FROM GAINING CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES AND MAKING THEM AN INSTRUMENT OF REPRESSION."

DR. JOSE MANUEL TENGARRINHA, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMUNIST-LINING PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP) HAS DEFENDED INDIRECT SELECTION OF PRESIDENT, AND SAID PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES SHOULD CONTINUE AS PRESIDENT FOR THE "TIME NECESSARY TO CONSOLIDATE DEMOCRATIC CONQUESTS."

5. COMMENT: THOSE WITH HEAVIEST WEIGHT IN TALKS WILL BE THE PS, THE PPD, THE "OPERATIONAL MILITARY" AND THE "POLITICAL MILITARY." THE PCP HAS REDUCED BARGAINING ROOM IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, THE "POLITICAL MILITARY" MAY FIND THE PCP A USEFUL ALLY ON CERTAIN POINTS SINCE -- FOR ITS OWN REASONS -- THE PCP FAVORS A CONTINUED STRONG ROLE FOR THE AFM. POSITIONS AMONG THE FOUR STRONGEST ACTORS COINCIDE IN THEIR BASIC THRUST: THE PACT SHOULD BE MODIFIED TO REDUCE THE MILITARY ROLE IN GOVERNING PORTUGAL. DISAGREEMENTS CAN BE EXPECTED TO ARISE OVER HOW RAPIDLY AND HOW COMPLETELY THE PACT SHOULD MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION.
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